

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

June 18, 2014

The Honorable Ernest Moniz  
Secretary of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write today to urge you to plan a trip to Carlsbad, NM, and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant at your earliest convenience. With the investigations coming to a conclusion and a recovery plan in final development, we believe it is time for you and the Department of Energy to demonstrate a continuing commitment to the community and to WIPP at the highest level.

As you know, WIPP is the nation's only deep geologic repository for legacy Cold War transuranic waste. The State of New Mexico, Eddy County and the community of Carlsbad have volunteered to undertake the important responsibility of safely and responsibly disposing of radioactive waste. The truck fire on February 5<sup>th</sup>, the radiation release on February 14<sup>th</sup> and the ensuing investigations have created substantial uncertainty among the workers at WIPP and the communities of southeast New Mexico.

While the investigation of the cause of the release is continuing, the two reports of the Accident Investigation Boards already identified a number of changes in the management, design and operations of WIPP that will be required; implementation of many of them is now underway. We believe that the recovery is now at a stage where it would be important for you to observe the efforts directly. The workers and the community would also appreciate hearing firsthand the Department's plans for returning WIPP to full operation. We look forward to hosting you in Carlsbad and we urge you to make plans to come to WIPP as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Steve Pearce  
United States Representative